

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

CINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

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SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND RELATED
ITEMS FOR APRIL 2, 1976

1. HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE OF THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT CONTINUED
FRIDAY (APRIL 2), WITH MOST PAPERS REPORTING THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS' DECISION TO SUBMIT THE AGREEMENT TO PARLIAMENT
FOR RATIFICATION. HEADLINES INCLUDED TERCUMAN: "DEMIREL SAYS
EMBARGO IS LIFTED IN REALITY," AND CUMHURIEYT: "DEMIREL
ANNOUNCED THAT THE CABINET DECIDED TO PASS THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT
SIGNED WITH THE USA THROUGH THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY."
COVERAGE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO GREEK REACTION TO THE AGREEMENT.
MILLIYET REPORTED THAT THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE U.S. HAS BEGUN
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TO TAKE ACTION AND QUOTED A "HIGH OFFICIAL" AS SAYING THAT

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY ANYTHING (OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION)... EVEN TO EXPRESS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE OUTCOME." BOTH MILLIYET AND CUMHURIYET REPORTED THAT OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT IS INCREASING IN CONGRESS, AND THAT THE FIGHT FOR RATIFICATION WILL BE DIFFICULT. TERCUMAN REPORTED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT THAT GREEK OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT WAS "REGRET-ABLE." TERCUMAN ALSO CARRIED A REPORT THAT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WERE PUT ON A STAND-BY ALERT YESTERDAY AND THAT THE GREEK AIR FORCE WOULD CONDUCT FIRING EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN THROUGHOUT APRIL.

2. IN OTHER COVERAGE, MOST PAPERS REPORTED AMBASSADOR MELIH ESENBEL'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON THAT IF TURKEY COULD NOT GET MILITARY AID FROM THE U.S., SHE WOULD BUY ARMS FROM EUROPE, ESPECIALLY FROM WEST GERMANY.

3. NILUFER YALCIN IN AN ARTICLE ON TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY IN MILLIYET (APRIL 2); STATED THAT THE GREEK LOBBY IN WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST THE AGREEMENT. SHE NOTED THAT THERE ARE FOUR GROUPS WHO ARE TRYING TO PREVENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT: THE GREEK LOBBY, CONGRESSMEN WITH GREEK CONSTITUENCY, THOSE OPPOSED TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, AND THOSE OPPOSED TO ANY AGREEMENT OF LONG DURATION. "CONGRESSMEN WHO SEE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CYPRUS CRISIS AND THE ONES WHO THINK OF AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE IN FAVOR OF THE AGREEMENT", SHE SAID.

4. ABDI IPEKCI, ALSO IN APRIL 2, MILLIYET, WROTE:
"NONE OF THE NON-ALIGNED ARMS-PRODUCING NATIONS IS IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ARMS TO TURKEY IN RETURN FOR HER JOINING THE THIRD WORLD. TURKEY HAS TO SELECT ONE OF THE BLOCS FOR THIS...FROM THE TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MEET OUR DEFENSE NEEDS FROM THE SOVIET UNION... TO CONVERT TO SOVIET ARMS WILL MEAN UNUSEABILITY OF THE ARMS WE HAVE AND WILL NECESSITATE RENEWAL OF ALL OF THEM...(BUT) DO THESE STUDIES SHOW THAT WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO BE DEPEND-ENT ON THE WEST AND AMERICA? NO. TURKEY HAS TRUMP CARDS THAT CAN PREVENT SUCH A DEPENDENCE, IF USED PROPERLY..." HE CALLED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A DEFENSE INDUSTRY TO INSURE INDEPENDENCE.
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6. UGUR MUMCU, WRITING IN CUMHURIYET (APRIL 2) STATED THAT THERE ARE TWO SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE THESE DAYS, TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THE BRIBERY ISSUE. HE SAID THE GOVERN-MENT IS "CONTINUING" THE STUDENT UNREST SO IT CAN DECLARE MARTIAL LAW AND PREVENT EITHER OF THE ISSUES FROM COMING BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT. MUMCU STATED THAT THE PUBLIC MUST BE "ALERT TO THE GAMES OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT, IN

ORDER TO PREVENT THEIR BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THIS MANEUVER...."

7. AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN TERCUMAN (APRIL 2) STATED "TWO CIRCLES HAVE SHOWN REACTION TO THE (DEFENSE) AGREEMENT....ONE IS GREECE AND THE OTHER IS COMMUNISTS IN TURKEY. ONLY BY CONSIDERING THIS REACTION IS IT POSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS IN THE INTEREST OF TURKEY....OPPOSITION TO THIS AGREEMENT BY PEOPLE WHO WERE SILENT TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY ECEVIT (DURING HIS PREMIERSHIP) THAT HE WAS READY FOR THE TRANSFER OF ALL AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE TO TURKEY, PLAINLY SHOWS WHAT THE EXTREME LEFTIST WRITERS AND COMMUNISTS HERE ARE AFTER."

8. IN TERCUMAN (APRIL 2), ZAFER ATAY COMMENTED ON THE "DEPENDABILITY" OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO. ATAY WROTE: "BY HER ACTIONS RECENTLY, THE U.S. HAS SHOWN THAT SHE IS NOT A DEPENDABLE FRIEND.... THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION, WHOSE ANSWER WE COULD NOT FIND (IN THE NEW AGREEMENT), IS THE QUESTION OF A GUARANTEE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A NEW EMBARGO...WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE U.S. THREATENS US WITH A NEW EMBARGO IN A YEAR? WE WILL CLOSE THE BASES. THEN WILL WE NOT BE RETURNING TO JULY, 1975? WE WILL WAIT AND SEE."
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